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## **Senate votes to prevent victims of attack from being sued**

**LANSING** – The Senate approved a package of bills today that would allow Michigan residents to use deadly force as a method of self-defense if they feel their lives are threatened, said Sen. Ron Jelinek.

Jelinek sponsored Senate Bill 1185 which would create immunity from civil liability in cases where deadly force was used for self-defense. This prevents a person from being sued by their attacker if the attacker was injured.

Also, the bill would require the court to award payment of actual and reasonable attorney fees and costs to an individual if the court determines that the use of force was consistent with the new laws.

“It is common sense that we should have the right to protect our families and ourselves from intruders without the fear of reprisal,” said Jelinek, R-Three Oaks.

Currently in Michigan, a person does not have a duty to retreat if assaulted in their own dwelling and can resist the attack, but they may not kill or seriously injure another person just to protect themselves against what seems like a threat of only minor injury.

This new act would allow a person to use deadly force in defending themselves or another person when they honestly and reasonably believe such force is necessary to prevent imminent death, great bodily harm or sexual assault.

The package consists of SBs 1185 and 1046 and House Bills 5142, 5143, 5153 and 5548.

Five other states have passed similar laws -- Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, South Dakota and Indiana.

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